IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Amend the paragraph beginning on line 5 of page 1 as follows:

The present invention relates to a lanolin free absorption base[[,]] and, in particular to an absorption base that comprises white petrolatum and a superior, lanolin free emulsifier, glucose based emulsifier such as methyl glucose dioleate. The absorption base can be combined with a preservative system[[,]] and further diluted with water if desired. Other components can be added to the base as typically employed in the field of cosmetics.

Amend the paragraph beginning on line 11 of page 1 as follows:

This invention relates generally to the field of cosmetics or cosmoceuticals and more specifically to a composition of matter comprising a lanolin free absorption base. An absorption base is a combination of specially selected ingredients, which must meet a number of criteria. They must first provide for the efficient emulsification of petrolatum and any subsequent addition of up to an equal amount of water to result in an elegant pharmaceutical or cosmetic base ~~product~~ to be used alone or in combination with other ingredients. They must be safe and have wide consumer acceptance.

Amend the paragraph beginning on line 21 of page 1 as follows:

An absorption base must first provide for the efficient emulsification of petrolatum (HLB 4) by an emulsifier. When there are large differences between the HLB for the petrolatum and the HLB of [[for]] the emulsifier larger amounts of an inferior emulsifier such as wool wax alcohols derived from lanolin are need and which may also ~~are required and may~~ necessitate the addition of stabilizing ingredients such as ceresin and or mineral oil ~~(wool wax alcohols as an emulsifier with HLB 8 is present in high concentrations)~~.

Amend the paragraph beginning on line 16 of page 2 as follows:

It would seem obvious that the introduction of a new line of products derived from a more scientifically advanced approach to absorption bases is well overdue. The currently available analogous commercial products rely upon a cholesterized lanolin, also known as wool-wax alcohols (the most highly fractionated and allergenic component of lanolin) as the emulsifier

for petrolatum to make an absorption base. An absorption base is petrolatum with the addition of an emulsifier such that, upon the addition of water, it will combine with water of an equal weight to form a homogeneous and acceptable cosmetic or pharmaceutical end product. It can be used alone (or with the addition of water or other ingredients) for the purposes of providing an occlusive base for moisturization or for healing purposes or as a base for the inclusion of other active ingredients.

Amend the paragraph beginning on line 23 of page 2 as follows:

One problem facing the prior art is that lanolin based absorption bases must employ hardening agents, e.g., ceresin (beeswax) to avoid the separation of ingredients at even mildly elevated temperatures during normal use and must conversely employ a softening agent (mineral oil) to counteract the hardening of this type of product at cooler temperatures. Ceresin requires 65 degrees centigrade to melt and these temperatures can be problematic for the absorption base (degradation of the emulsifier) during the manufacturing process.

Amend the paragraph beginning on line 4 of page 3 as follows:

A secondary objective is to eliminate the pervasive lanolin (sheep) smell found in [[other]] products of this type.

Amend the paragraph beginning on line 18 of page 3 as follows:

A further object of the invention is to decrease batch failure due to the ~~" forgiving "~~ ~~nature~~ "forgiving nature" of the product; the inventive product is stable over a wide range of manufacturing temperatures.

Amend the paragraph beginning on line 23 of page 3 as follows:

Yet a further ~~Another~~ object of the invention is increased antimicrobial protection of products made due to compatible preservative system. Another object of the invention is increased consumer acceptance by eliminating " mad cow disease " concern of sheep products.

Amend the paragraph beginning on line 31 of page 3 as follows:

In one [[of]] aspect of the invention, the invention is intended to cover the use of all non-

lanolin based emulsifiers for the purpose of producing an absorption base, wherein the emulsifiers would fall within the range of 3 HLB units of the HLB value of petrolatum (HLB 4). Preferably, the emulsifier is any glucose-derived emulsifier that falls within this range. More preferably, the emulsifier is methyl glucose dioleate.

Amend the paragraph beginning on line 31 of page 5 as follows:

4. May pour directly into final container to make absorption base brand name product (about 46 degrees centigrade).

Amend the paragraph beginning on line 3 of page 6 as follows:

1. Take the product from step (3) above and add a preservative system, e.g., DMDM hydantoin (and) Iodo propynyl butyl carbamate. The concentration of the preservative system can vary depending on the system. With the identified system, the concentration in weight percent should be around between 0.25 and 0.4% ~~0.4 and 0.25%~~ by weight.

Amend the paragraph beginning on line 27 of page 6 as follows:

New to this class of agents is an absorption base of non-animal origin and lacking the irritating and allergenic potential of it's competitor continuing to use 1950's [[1950']] technology by the use of highly allergenic (in some patient populations) wool-wax alcohols as the emulsifier for their products. Additionally, the neutral and nonionic nature of the formulation allows for a wide application as a pharmaceutical base while consumer acceptance has been increased by eliminating undesirable lanolin odors and making application (spreadability of the product to human skin) independent of ambient temperatures.

Amend the paragraph beginning on line 30 of page 7 as follows:

Other applications for the absorption base include its use as a superb vehicle for the delivery of sunscreen ingredients for the heavy duty use by the military, lifeguards, skiers, etc. The absorption base can incorporate anti-aging ingredients such as are commonly used in the industry.

Amend the six numbered paragraphs beginning on line 4 of page 8 as follows:

1. A composition of matter comprising a lanolin free absorption base with superior lanolin free emulsifier selected for HLB (hydrophilic-lipophilic balance) compatibility[[;]] .

2. Neutral, nonionic absorption base ideal for the incorporation of many active ingredients[[;]] .

3. Low production temperatures allows incorporation of heat labile active ingredients[[;]] .

4. Competitor uses 1950's emulsifier technology based on highly allergenic wool-wax alcohols[[;]] .

5. More efficient emulsification leads to much lower concentration of emulsifier[[;]] .

6. Especially effective formulation for hydrocortisone or its salts due to HLB compatibility[[;]] .